

NPIC/TSSG/DED-1563-69
1 April 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Projects & Programs Staff, TSSG
SUBJECT : Comments on Proposed Policy Statements on Computer Support Within NPIC

1. These are my comments relative to the subject draft. I have strong reservations about the suggested role of AID in providing computer support for R&D efforts. If this is implemented, then R&D at NPIC will have taken three giant steps backwards and the present difficulty in establishing expeditious and effective project management and control will be compounded further.

2. I have no arguments with AID's maintaining, managing, and developing software for in-house computers or any computer system once it is a part of delivered equipment to the Center. However, it should be realized that computers are in essence tools which are a necessity in developing advanced and automated systems in the image exploitation field. They are an integral and critical part of any system design, and any separation of responsibility between DED and AID during feasibility or breadboard prototype stages would lead to chaotic project management conditions.

3. For this reason, I believe that DED should be responsible for the computer interface and the necessary software during the exploratory and advanced development (leading to breadboard prototype) phases of the task. DED should coordinate with AID during these phases to keep them apprised of possible future computer requirements. This coordination should be for their information and their comment, but AID approval of the computer approach should not be required. Every effort would be made in this early period to keep computer requirements within the IIS capability, and if this is not possible, exceptions shall be cited. After feasibility is demonstrated and management decides that operational equipment should be developed, then AID should be integrated thoroughly in the effort, especially if the IIS computer is to be used. At this point in time it is not clear who has the responsibility for maintaining, managing, and effecting software changes for special purpose computers. During this equipment development phase coordination should be thorough with AID committing personnel to become acquainted with the software requirements for the system.

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4. I would appreciate any documentation forwarded to PPBS on the
subject reflecting the concern of this division.

[redacted]
Chief, Development & Engineering Division, TSSG

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